

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 592

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Lindsey Witherspoon for her great courage and heroic actions.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure the safety of their fellow citizens, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, 18-year-old Lindsey Witherspoon of Sullivan County is one such courageous Tennessean who recently risked life and limb to save the life of a fellow human being; and

WHEREAS, on the afternoon of December 26, 2007, Lindsey Witherspoon and her friend, Kim Richards, were taking Lindsey's younger brother, Graham, to a football game at Warriors Path State Park when a car pulled across their path heading down the bank to the lake; and

WHEREAS, at first, the girls thought it was a runaway car, but when they noticed a woman struggling inside the car as it plunged into the water, Lindsey Witherspoon, a former lifeguard and a member of the swim team at King College, said all she could think was, "I've got to get in the water."; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Witherspoon jumped into the frigid water of Fort Patrick Henry Lake and swam about 100 feet out to the sinking car, while fellow Sullivan South High School graduate, Kim Richards, immediately called 911; and

WHEREAS, Lindsey Witherspoon then dove ten feet down to reach the panicked woman; after helping her escape the vehicle, she called upon her many years of swimming experience and lifeguard training to pull her safely ashore, fighting to keep both of their heads above water; and

WHEREAS, no sooner had Ms. Witherspoon gotten the young woman safely back to shore did Good Samaritans step up to offer assistance with blankets and dry clothing; and

WHEREAS, Park Ranger Jerry Adams arrived within minutes of the 911 call, and members of the Warriors Path Volunteer Fire Department and Sullivan County EMS followed soon thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the victim was transported to Holston Valley Medical Center for treatment, and, though badly shaken, she suffered only minor scrapes in the incident; and

WHEREAS, a young woman of decisive action, incredible valor, and unwavering courage, Lindsey Witherspoon risked her own life on that fateful December afternoon to save the life of a fellow human being; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and just that this exceptional young woman should be recognized and commended for acting with such bravery and honor in the face of potential tragedy; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Lindsey Witherspoon for her courage and resolve in the face of imminent danger, commend her for her selfless actions in saving the life of a fellow human being, and offer our thanks for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.